

2  
Friends Meeting House  
New Bedford, Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-467

HABS  
MASS,  
3-NEBED,  
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer  
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

## FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

HABS  
MASS,  
3-NEBED,  
8-

Address: Spring Street (north side) near Sixth Street,  
New Bedford, Bristol County, Massachusetts.

An Addendum to

Meeting House  
New Bedford, Bristol County,  
Massachusetts

in HABS Catalog (1941)

Data supplied by Mrs. Charles W. Mesner  
441 Pleasant Street,  
New Bedford  
Massachusetts

Taken from a report of the Centennial Exercises of New Bedford  
Monthly Meeting 12th month 22d, 1892,  
by Dr. Edward T. Tucker.

"In relation to the date of erection of the present brick meeting-house, the following is ascertained:

"5th mo., 1820.--It being thought desirable not only for the better accommodation of this but more particularly of the Quarterly Meeting, that this house should be enlarged, or a new one erected, we appoint Edward Wing, William Rotch, Jr., Peter Barney, Samuel Rodman, Jr., Cornelius Howland, William Tallman, Job Otis, Resolved Howland, Thomas Nye, and Matthew Howland, to take the subject generally into consideration, and report at a future meeting.

"Two months later the Quarterly Meeting approved the course proposed, as read.

"In the 2d mo., 1821, the committee reported that it would be advisable to erect a new house of brick, on the same lot, south of the old house, seventy feet long, and fifty or fifty-five feet wide. Furthermore, that more than \$5,000 had been promised, on condition that a brick meeting house was put up.

"It was decided at this time to build the house, as proposed, and to secure a larger lot if necessary.

"In the following month (3d mo. 1821) it was concluded that the present lot was suitable for the purpose, and that the house should be 70 x 58 ft., with a porch at the west 25 x 20 feet, to be used as a room for committees; that the old house should be moved from the lot and sold, and that ~~one~~ half an acre of land adjoining should be secured for sheds and a stable.

"In the 5th month, 1824 the meeting was informed that the house had been built of the proposed dimensions, the cost rising to \$8,000, which had been paid, and that \$270.75 had been received from the sale of the old house.

"In 3d mo., 1826, the Monthly Meeting was informed that the lot had been enclosed and sheds had been erected, at an additional expense of \$850.

"Thus it appears the house was occupied in the early part of 1824.

"Today the old structure appears as substantial as the day when first occupied, and for comfort and convenience is excelled by very few of its kind."

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect  
National Park Service  
September 1961